



STATE OF WASHINGTON

PUBLIC DISCLOSURE COMMISSION

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BEFORE THE PUBLIC DISCLOSURE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON

IN RE COMPLIANCE
WITH RCW 42.17

Jim Wilson, Fire Chief, Retired
King County Fire District 13
AKA Vashon Island Fire and Rescue

Respondent.

PDC CASE NO: 06-249

REPORT OF INVESTIGATION

I.
BACKGROUND

- 1.1 During 2005, staff for King County Fire District No. 13, also known as Vashon Island Fire and Rescue (VIFR), included Jim Wilson, the paid Fire Chief, Maridee BonaDea, Executive Assistant for the VIFR, and Lea Gaskell the volunteer public information officer for the fire district. Ms. Gaskell is also Chief Wilson's daughter. Jim Wilson was Fire Chief from 2000 until he retired in April 2006.
- 1.2 Chief Wilson's tenure with the VIFR included questioning by district residents about district decisions to move dispatch off the island, integrate the volunteer department with paid professionals, and provide ambulance service. Residents also questioned his proposed capital budget, and a perceived lack of public input into district decisions.
- 1.3 VIFR had no fire district ballot propositions on the 2005 ballot. There were elections for three fire commissioner positions in 2005.
- 1.4 SharlonLee Nicholson was the position four incumbent fire commissioner appointed in January 2003. She was opposed by Gayle Sommers and Carolyn Smith in the September 20, 2005, primary election. Nicholson and Sommers advanced to the general election.



- 1.5 Scott Rice was the position five incumbent fire commissioner appointed in January 2005. He was opposed by David Hoffman in the November 8, 2005, general election.
- 1.6 Rex Stratton was a candidate for the vacant fire commissioner position one. He was opposed by Ron Turner.
- 1.7 Commissioners David Jennings and Jan Nielson were incumbent commissioners whose terms had not yet expired in 2005.
- 1.8 Incumbents Nicholson and Rice, and challenger Rex Stratton were supported publicly by the International Association of Firefighters Local 4189 (**Exhibit 1**) representing the paid firefighters and paramedics of VIFR, and by Jim Whitney, Assistant Chief of VIFR. (**Exhibit 2**)
- 1.9 Islanders for Representative Fire Leadership, a coalition of residents opposed to the current direction of the fire district, endorsed challengers Sommers, Hoffman, and Turner. (**Exhibit 3**)
- 1.10 Challengers Sommers, Hoffman, and Turner won in the November 8, 2005 general election.
- 1.11 Commissioners Nicholson and Rice, and Mr. Stratton had similar positions on the issues debated during the campaign, and were aligned generally with the policies of the 2005 board. The position of these candidates was guided by the 2000 Strategic Plan of the fire district. These candidates defended the decisions of the current board and Chief Wilson. The challengers, Sommers, Hoffman, and Turner, maintained that the board was making decisions without public input, and questioned many of the recent decisions made by the board and Chief Wilson.

II. ALLEGATIONS

- 2.1 On September 28, 2005, the Public Disclosure Commission received a complaint from Rick Frye alleging a violation of RCW 42.17. (**Exhibit 4**) Specifically, the complaint alleged that officials of VIFR printed and distributed the September 2005 edition of *Fireline News* (**Exhibit 5**) that included an article assisting the 2005 re-election campaign of Commissioner Nicholson, VIFR Board Chair, an alleged violation of RCW 42.17.130.
- 2.2 Similar complaints were received from Alice Larson on September 26, 2005, Dick Franklin on September 27, 2005, R. W. Turner on September 29, 2005, Frederic and Barbara Stoddard on October 3, 2005, and Joel Wade on October 10, 2005. (**Exhibit 6**)

- 2.3 An additional complaint by Barbara F. Stoddard, received on October 18, 2005 (**Exhibit 7**) alleged that after publishing and distributing the September *Fireline News*, VIFR printed an October edition (**Exhibit 8**) that dealt with election issues and assisted the 2005 re-election campaigns of Nicholson and Rice and the campaign of Stratton.

III. FINDINGS

The *Fireline News*

- 3.1 The *Fireline News* is an irregularly published newsletter of VIFR whose purpose is to inform residents of the fire district about fire and safety issues.
- 3.2 Goal one of the VIFR Customer Centered Strategic Plan, adopted in August 2000, (**Exhibit 9**) is to develop effective community outreach and involvement. A critical task in objective 1-B is to produce a quarterly community newsletter. The *Fireline News* is that newsletter.
- 3.3 The newsletter was published once in 2002 (September), once in 2003 (October), and once in 2004 (December). The newsletter was published four times in 2005 (February, July, September, and October).
- 3.4 During a telephone call on May 31, 2006, Chief Wilson stated that in November or December 2004, he and Ms. Gaskill were reviewing the communications plan and preparing for an up-coming commissioner's retreat. The board was asking for enhanced involvement in communications. Ms. Gaskill and Chief Wilson discussed the publishing of the *Fireline News* and how it could be used in the communications plan. They set the yearly agenda for the *Fireline News*, and developed themes for the 4-5 issues of the newsletter. Ms. Gaskill suggested that they begin to highlight commissioners in the newsletter, starting with the chairman.
- 3.5 In his November 8, 2005 response to the PDC, Chief Wilson wrote, "*In an attempt to work within the approved budget, administration created a plan to publish and distribute four to five newsletters in 2005. Some general themes were listed along with a time frame that was generally oriented toward one each season with a possible extra edition specifically oriented toward wild land fire exposures or cold weather safety issues.*" (**Exhibit 10**)
- 3.6 Additionally, Chief Wilson stated that the winter 2005 *Fireline News*, published in February 2005, took on a new format. It was eight pages, measured eleven by fourteen inches and was printed on glossy paper.

The newsletter contained eleven articles. Eight of the articles were written by contributing writers. Fourteen photographs were displayed in the articles plus a collage of pictures taking up a full page. **(Exhibit 11)**

- 3.7 Following its publication in February 2005, district residents complained about the newsletter's "slick look" and said it was not of the "Vashon character." As a result, a spring issue of the *Fireline News* was not published while a redesign was contemplated.
- 3.8 The July 2005 edition of the *Fireline News* was two pages (printed on a single page front and back), printed in two colors on 11 by 14 recycled matte paper. **(Exhibit 12)** The newsletter contained 5 articles, none with by-lines. The articles were addressing disaster preparedness, wild land fires, the local strawberry festival, and volunteers.
- 3.9 The fire commission conducted community-based meetings during the spring and summer of 2005, promoting its desire to build a new fire station on the south end of the island, which would also accommodate a resident firefighter. During those meetings it became evident that few in the community knew the individual commission members.
- 3.10 To implement the plan previously discussed in November or December 2004, Chief Wilson decided to feature a profile of one board member in each upcoming edition of the *Fireline News*, following the July 2005 edition. The September 2005 edition was the first opportunity to feature a commissioner.
- 3.11 In the September 2005 edition of the *Fireline News*, Commissioner SharonLee Nicholson, the commission chair, was featured. The article included a front page picture and biographical information. Chief Wilson stated that the biographical information was provided by Ms. Nicholson.
- 3.12 Ms. Gaskill stated during an interview on June 1, 2006, that she drafted questions to Commissioner Nicholson for this newsletter article. Ms. Nicholson responded and together they created the article for the September edition of the *Fireline News*.
- 3.13 The article featured a picture of Commissioner Nicholson. She wrote about her community involvement, education and personal accomplishments. The article listed her personal goals when she first became a fire commissioner. She wrote that the board has been successful in achieving its goals. She concluded by stating, "*I am proud to be a member of the VIFR team. In the past the team has met and overcome obstacles to achieve community goals. We are prepared to meet the challenges of the future.*"

- 3.14 In his written response and in his interview Chief Wilson admitted that he and his daughter were responsible for the content and timing of the *Fireline News*. Ms. Gaskill stated she is the *Fireline News* designer. In a box at the bottom of page five in the winter 2005 *Fireline News* it lists the editors as Chief Wilson and Lea Gaskill. The by-line in the box reads: "*Fireline* is a Vashon Island Fire & Rescue quarterly publication for the intent to educate the community on District accomplishments, news and current events."
- 3.15 According to Ms. BonaDea, executive assistant for the district, Chief Wilson and Ms. Gaskill are responsible for the content and publishing dates of the *Fireline News*. Commissioner Nicholson stated that the *Fireline News* was a function of the Administration, not the board, as outlined in the 2000 Strategic Plan. She said although members may have known some items that might be in the *Fireline News* prior to its publication, it was never acted upon by the board. Both Chief Wilson and Ms. Gaskill have stated that the board of commissioners did not oversee the normal operations of publishing the *Fireline News*.
- 3.16 Chief Wilson, in a telephone interview on May 31, 2006, stated that the Fire Commissioners did not micro-manage the daily activities of the fire District. They confined their involvement to policies and broad management strategies.
- 3.17 When Commissioner Nicholson was questioned by PDC staff about her photograph and biography appearing on the front page of the September 2005 *Fireline News* she stated, "*It was not my idea to print the bio in September, and frankly I don't remember whose idea it was.*" Ms. Nicholson said that neither she nor the other commissioners put any pressure on Chief Wilson to include an article about commissioner Nicholson in the September 2005 edition of the *Fireline News*. Chief Wilson and Ms. Gaskill agree.
- 3.18 Ms. BonaDea told PDC staff that Chief Jim Wilson and Ms. Gaskill worked closely together and controlled the content of the *FireLine News*. Ms. Gaskill stated that the content of the *Fireline News* was a collective effort between the administration, staff and board.
- 3.19 In an interview on April 4, 2006, Ms. Nicholson stated that Chief Wilson preferred her as a commissioner over Ms. Sommers, her opponent.
- 3.20 Commissioner Nicholson stated that, at an undisclosed time well before the September 2005 election, each board member was asked by Chief Wilson to provide an autobiographical article. She believed that the information was to be posted on the VIFR website.

- 3.21 In September 2004, Ms. BonaDea, at the direction of Chief Wilson, compiled short biographies for a redesigned district website. She distributed a sheet to all commissioners, and included six biographical questions. She then composed short one-paragraph biographies for the commissioners and posted them on the website. The posting of Ms. Nicholson's biographical information was much shorter and less detailed than the article written for and printed in the September 2005 *Fireline News*.
- 3.22 Ms. Gaskill volunteered for the 2005 campaigns of Incumbent Commissioners Rice and Nicholson, and Mr. Stratton.
- 3.23 On March 31, 2006, Al Riddle, a fire commissioner from 1995 through 2004, stated that Chief Wilson recommended using the *Fireline News* to highlight an incumbent commissioner who was running for re-election. Mr. Riddle said this recommendation occurred in 2000 or 2001. He said Chief Wilson suggested that the *Fireline News* highlight Tim Sullivan, who at that time was commission chairman and was running against a candidate who opposed the policies of the incumbent commissioners. Mr. Riddle said that he and his fellow commissioners felt it was not right and unanimously told him "no." Mr. Riddle said, "*We didn't know if it was illegal but it was sure unethical.*" Mr. Riddle said the conversation occurred after a regular board meeting, and was said off the record. Mr. Riddle said he believed Chief Wilson's recommendation was for the purpose of assisting the election of the incumbent fire commissioner.

Distribution of the Fireline News

- 3.24 The September 2005 edition of the *Fireline News* was delivered by the printer to the fire district on September 12, 2005. **(Exhibit 13)** The original timing of the September edition of the *Fireline News* was for it to arrive at Vashon households before the September 20, 2005, primary election, as evidenced from the calendar on page two, inviting the public to the September 20, 2005, commissioner's meeting. Ms. BonaDea said she was ready to mail the newsletter on September 15, 2005, when Commissioner Nielsen told her not to mail the newsletter until after the primary election.
- 3.25 According to Chief Wilson, when copies of the *Fireline News* arrived from the printer, the box was opened and a stack was set on the counter for the public. Commissioner Nielson picked one up and discussed it with Chief Wilson. He asked if featuring a commissioner, especially one that was up for election, was appropriate. Chief Wilson said he then decided to hold the distribution until after the primary election. The newsletter was mailed on September 21, 2005, one day after the primary election. **(Exhibit 14)** Ms. Gaskill said she believes the discussion between Commissioner

Nielson and Chief Wilson occurred while the newspaper was at the printer.

Campaign Issues Raised and *Fireline News* Response in October 2005

- 3.26 In October 2005, Chief Wilson published and distributed an edition of the *Fireline News* that was devoted almost entirely to election questions being debated by the candidates running for fire commissioner. The newsletter was mailed on October 4, 2005. The headline was "Fire FAQs – Separating Fact from Fiction." The first sentence read, "As we move closer to the November General Election...". The October 2005 *Fireline News* was a compilation of three letters written by Chief Wilson for the *Beachcomber* Newspaper. An article similar to the October *Fireline News* had already appeared in the *Beachcomber*.
- 3.27 On June 13, 2006, the PDC staff telephoned Sue Carleton, a Former Fire commissioner with VIF&R, at her home on Vashon Island. Ms. Carleton's term of office ended in December 2005 and she was not a candidate for reelection. Ms. Carleton was asked if she played any role in the production of the *Fireline News*, she stated she was not aware of the October 2005 issue. Ms. Carleton stated that she had no contact with Chief Wilson about the October 2005 *Fireline News*.
- 3.28 On June 13, 2006, the PDC staff telephoned David Jennings at his office in Seattle. He is a current Fire Commissioner for VIF&R. He is an incumbent that was not up for election in 2005. Mr. Jennings stated that he had no contact with Chief Wilson about the October 2005 *Fireline News*. He was not aware of any of the other commissioners collaborating with Chief Wilson, nor did he know of any commissioner directing the Chief to send out the October 2005 edition. He said he was not aware of the October issue until after he received one at his home. Scott Rice, a fire commissioner who lost in 2005 to Ron Turner, moved out of the area after the general election.
- 3.29 On June 13, 2006, the PDC staff telephoned Rex Stratton at his office on Vashon Island. Mr. Stratton ran for the position vacated by Sue Carleton. He ran against Ronald Turner and lost. Mr. Stratton stated that he did not play any role in the production or publishing of the October 2005 *Fireline News*, and did not speak to Chief Wilson about the newsletter.
- 3.30 On June 13, 2006, PDC staff telephoned Commissioner Jan Nielson in Seattle. He is a current Commissioner for VIF&R. He is an incumbent that was not up for election in 2005. Mr. Nielson stated that he had no contact with Chief Wilson about the October 2005 *Fireline News*. He said the first time he saw the issue was when it came to his home in the mail. He does not know of anyone who collaborated with or directed Chief Wilson to publish the October 2005 issue of the *Fireline News*.

- 3.31 On June 14, 2006, PDC staff telephoned SharonLee Nicholson in Seattle. Ms. Nicholson stated that she had no contact with Chief Wilson about the October 2005 *Fireline News*. She said the first time she saw the newsletter was when she received it in the mail. She does not know of anyone that collaborated with or directed Chief Wilson to publish the October 2005 issue of the *Fireline News*.
- 3.32 The October 2005 *Fireline News* contained the following articles:
- **VIF&R Encourages New Volunteers.**
 - **Why Does VIF&R Seek Grant Funding?**
 - **Is it True VIF&R Employs Three Assistant Chiefs?**
 - With \$2.5 Million in the Bank, Why Seek Grants?
 - **I Keep Hearing Taxpayer Dollars Are Used To Force a Private Ambulance Service Out of Business.**
 - What Is "Nice-To-Have" Equipment Or Apparatus?
 - Calling All Volunteers For 2006 Fire Fighting Academy.
 - Why Does VIF&R Maintain So Many Vehicles And So Much Equipment?
 - **Why Is VIF&R Proposing to Replace The Burton Fire Station?**
 - Do My Taxes Escalate To a Higher Bracket When The District Hires More Employees?
 - Is The Fire Chief Paid Too Much?
- 3.33 The bolded issues above are discussed in more detail below:

Recruiting and use of volunteers

- 3.34 During the campaign, challengers Sommers, Turner, and Hoffman claimed the administration had created a negative environment at the VIFR for volunteers. During her campaign, Ms. Sommers said she would like to see VIFR focus more on showing its appreciation for volunteers and proving that the fire district is a good place to volunteer (Beachcomber 9-14-05). Mr. Turner said he wanted to re-establish the volunteer system as it once was, and Mr. Hoffman said he would like to see the board support the volunteer program like it had in the past. Ms. Sommers stated that having a large number of committed, trained volunteers would decrease alarm response time, which is a department goal (Beachcomber 10-12-05).
- 3.35 The October 2005 *Fireline News* contained an article titled "VIF&R Encourages New Volunteers." In the article, Chief Wilson stated that the fire district is encouraging people to become volunteer firefighters. He defended the VIFR when he stated, "*Although VIF&R is employing firefighters, the department is dependant on volunteer firefighters.*" He

said VIFR actively recruits new volunteers, and said volunteers must meet increased training both physically and in volunteer time.

Seeking Grant Funding

- 3.36 During the campaign, challenger Sommers took issue with the VIFR applying for grants which she claimed was done for the sake of applying for grants, without public input and without the commissioners talking about it in an open public meeting.
- 3.37 In a letter to the editor on September 14, 2005, challenger Turner asked why the fire district applied for a grant to purchase a ladder truck, why the department needs another four firefighters when they have a chief and three assistants, why the fire district applied for a Homeland Security Grant for \$400,000 for additional personnel when the board is committed to using volunteers, why the fire district needs grant assistance with \$2.5 million in the bank, and why money is needed for "nice to have" equipment (Beachcomber 10-12-05).
- 3.38 During the campaign, incumbent Commissioner Nicholson defended the district's grant applications, saying the district has a responsibility to look for funds anywhere they can be found to help ease the tax burden on Islanders. When challengers Sommers, Turner, and Hoffman were elected to the board in November 2005, they represented a three to two majority. At the board's first meeting after the newly elected commissioners took office, the board voted to return the grant money the district had received.
- 3.39 The October 2005 *Fireline News* contained an article titled "Why does VIF&R seek grant funding?" Chief Wilson wrote, "*The simple answer is: it's the responsible thing to do. If the district has a need and there is a grant available to fill that need, customer service can be improved at little or no cost to taxpayers.*" Chief Wilson also said he is proud of the fact that he has not asked for a funding increase in fifteen years. He also made this point in articles printed in the *Vashon-Maury Island Beachcomber* newspaper.

Assistant Fire Chiefs

- 3.40 During the campaign diligence in overseeing the Fire Chief and the operation of the fire district was a campaign issue. Ms. Sommers told PDC staff that she was probably responsible for the Chief's comments in the October 2005 issue of the *Fireline News* in the article titled "Is It True VIF&R Employs Three Assistant Chiefs?" Challenger Sommers said she asked several times during the campaign why the fire district employed three assistant chiefs. In the elections section of the *Vashon Island Beachcomber*, challenger Turner stated, "*With our four chief positions and*

five secretaries, someone should be able to answer the phone. Try working smarter, not harder" (Beachcomber 10-12-05).

- 3.41 The October 2005 issue of the *Fireline News* included an article titled "Is it True VIF&R employs three Assistant Fire Chiefs?" In the article, Chief Wilson took exception to the statement that the department employed three assistant fire chiefs and stated, "*VIF&R employs one career assistant chief and maintains one volunteer chief. In addition the District employs a career training/safety officer.*"

Island Ambulance Service

- 3.42 During the campaign island ambulance service was a highly debated issue. Challengers Sommers, Turner, and Hoffman aggressively spoke against the district's use of its ambulance to transport Basic Life Support (BLS) patients to the off-island hospitals, thereby decreasing business for Island Emergency Care (IEC) a private ambulance service business (Beachcomber 9-14-05, Beachcomber 9-28-05). During a debate that took place at a fire district commissioner meeting the week before September 28, 2005, Ms. Sommers asked why VIFR was sending aid cars off-island instead of using Island Emergency Care. Incumbent Commissioner David Jennings, who was not up for re-election in 2005, responded that he was disappointed at the false accusations. He said he does not always agree with Chief Wilson, but said the board only makes policy while the chief runs the department.
- 3.43 The October 2005 *Fireline News* contained an article titled, "I Keep Hearing Taxpayer Dollars Are Used To Force A Private Ambulance Service Out Of Business." In the article, Chief Wilson disagreed that the district is attempting to force IEC out of business. He stated, "*It is not a public agency's responsibility to ensure a private company is awarded business or remains in business.*"

Capital Improvements

- 3.44 The moving of the Burton fire station, and closure of two south island stations, and merging the two stations into a single station at Inspiration Point was a predominant reason challengers Sommers, Turner, and Hoffman said they ran for office. The 2005 VIFR board of commissioners had made offers on two properties with little public input and eventually lost a deposit on each offer. Mr. Turner stated in his campaign that abandoning two fire stations was inappropriate. He also charged that the study used by the fire district justifying the move of the Burton station included erroneous seismic information. (Beachcomber 8-24-05, 8-31-05)
- 3.45 The October 2005 *Fireline News* included an article titled "Why is VIF&R Proposing To Replace The Burton Fire Station?" In the article, Chief

Wilson wrote, "*The simple answer to a complex question is the current building has been judged seismically unsound and may not withstand a sizable earthquake.*"

Additional Information Regarding The Complaint

- 3.46 Chief Wilson said he checked with the Fire District's attorney prior to publishing the October Issue of the *Fireline News* and believed it was in compliance with the law.
- 3.47 The following chart shows the expenses for the September and October 2005 *Fireline News* printing and mailing. According to Maridee BonaDea, both the September and October mailings were to all routes and all box holders.

September & October <i>Fireline News</i> – Associated Costs			
Date	Item	Cost	Comments
9/6/2005	Printing Plus	\$1,461.99	Received from printer September 12, 2005; Sent to all routes and box holders (6,156)
9/21/2005	USPS	\$752.39	
10/4/2005	Printing Plus	\$1,651.48	Sent to all routes and box holders 6,156)
10/04/2005	USPS	\$752.39	
	Total	\$4,618.25	

- 3.48 Chief Wilson estimated he normally spends five to eight hours on each issue of the *Fireline Newsletters*. Sixteen hours of Chief Wilson's staff time equals \$768. Combined with printing and mailing the total cost was \$5,386.25.

IV. SCOPE

- 4.1 Staff reviewed the complaints filed by Rick Frye, Alice Larson, Dick Franklin, Frederic and Barbara Stoddard, R. W. Turner, and Joel Wade received in September and October 2005.
- 4.2 Staff reviewed Chief Jim Wilson's written response received November 10, 2005.
- 4.3 Staff reviewed the 2005 editions of the *Fireline News*.
- 4.4 Staff interviewed Chief Jim Wilson on January 17, 2006.

- 4.5 Staff met with Rick Frye, Joel Wade, Dick Franklin, Barbara Stoddard, Ron Turner, and Hilary Emmer at the Vashon Library on January 17, 2006.
- 4.6 Staff met with Allison Arthur, editor of the *Vashon-Maury Island Beachcomber* newspaper.
- 4.7 Staff held telephone conversations with Gayle Sommers.
- 4.8 Staff interviewed Al Riddle on March 31, 2006.
- 4.9 Staff interviewed Ronald Turner on April 3, 2006.
- 4.10 Staff interviewed SharonLee Church-Nicholson on April 4, 2006.
- 4.11 Staff reviewed newspaper articles from the *Vashon-Maury Island Beachcomber* ranging from August 3, 2005 through November 9, 2005.
- 4.12 Staff interviewed Former Commissioner Sue Carlton, and Commissioners Jan Neilson, and David Jennings.
- 4.13 Staff re-interviewed Jim Wilson.
- 4.14 Staff interviewed Lea Gaskill.
- 4.15 Staff contacted the 2005 Commissioners, except Scott Rice, by telephone on June 13 and 14, 2006. Staff also contacted Rex Stratton by telephone on June 13, 2006.

V.
LAW

RCW 42.17.130 -- Forbids use of public office or agency facilities in campaigns.

No elective official nor any employee of his office nor any person appointed to or employed by any public office or agency may use or authorize the use of any of the facilities of a public office or agency, directly or indirectly, for the purpose of assisting a campaign for election of any person to any office or for the promotion of or opposition to any ballot proposition. Facilities of public office or agency include, but are not limited to, use of stationery, postage, machines, and equipment, use of employees of the office or agency during working hours, vehicles, office space, publications of the office or agency, and clientele lists of persons served by the office or agency: PROVIDED, That the foregoing provisions of this section shall not apply to the following activities:

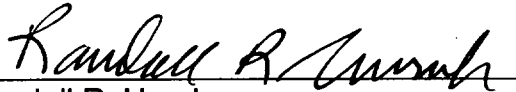
- (1) Action taken at an open public meeting by members of an elected legislative body to express a collective decision, or to actually vote upon a

motion, proposal, resolution, order, or ordinance, or to support or oppose a ballot proposition so long as (a) any required notice of the meeting includes the title and number of the ballot proposition, and (b) members of the legislative body or members of the public are afforded an approximately equal opportunity for the expression of an opposing view;

(2) A statement by an elected official in support of or in opposition to any ballot proposition at an open press conference or in response to a specific inquiry;

(3) Activities which are part of the normal and regular conduct of the office or agency.

Respectfully submitted this 14th day of June, 2006.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Randall R. Unruh", written over a horizontal line.

Randall R. Unruh
Senior Political Finance Specialist

Exhibit List

1. Photocopies of two campaign brochures for Nicholson/Rice/Stratton, paid for by IAFF Local # 4189.
2. Letters to the Editor - Endorsement from Jim Whitney in *the Maury Vashon Island Beachcomber* dated November 2, 2005.
3. Downloaded website page from IRFL.org
4. Complaint from Rick Frye dated September 26, 2005.
5. September 2005, *Fireline News*.
6. Complaints from Alice Larson received September 26, 2005, Dick Franklin received September 27, 2006, Frederic and Barbara Stoddard received October 18, 2005, R. W. Turner received September 29, 2005, and Joel Wade received October 10, 2005.
7. Complaint from Barbara Stoddard received October 18, 2005.
8. October 2005, *Fireline News*.
9. VIF&R Customer Centered Strategic Plan adopted August 2000.
10. Response Letter from Chief Jim Wilson dated November 8, 2005.
11. Winter 2005 *Fireline News*
12. July 2005 *Fireline News*
13. "Estimate Sheet" from Printing Plus showing delivery as September 12, 2005.
14. U. S. Postal Service receipt, September 21, 2005.